

# Geronimo Stilton

## THE MOUSE ISLAND MARATHON



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# HOLEY CHEESE . . .

It was a beautiful summer morning. The sun was shining like a round ball of cheddar in the sky. *What a great day*, I thought as I headed off for work.



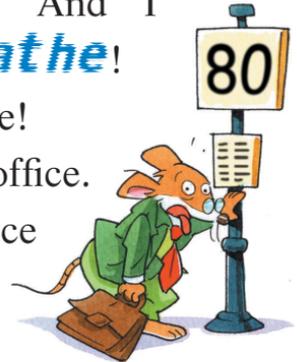
Then I missed the bus. I tried running after it, but I had to stop.

**MY HEART WAS RACING.**

My whiskers were sweating. And I could barely **breathe!**

Holey cheese, I was out of shape!

Eventually, I made it to the office. Oops, I almost forgot to introduce myself. My name is Stilton,



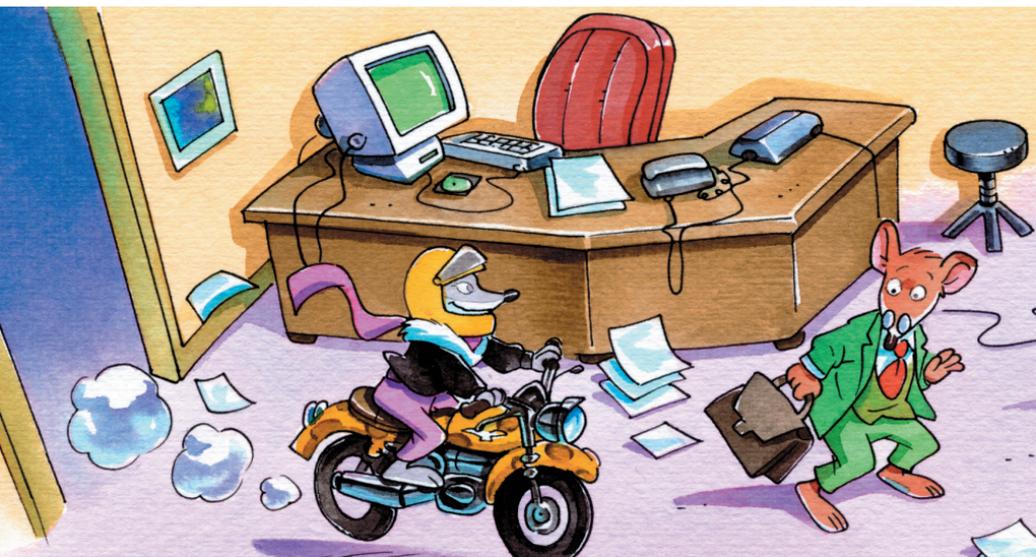


*Geronimo Stilton*. I am the publisher of *The Rodent's Gazette*, the most famous newspaper on Mouse Island.

Anyway, I got to the office just as my sister **ROARED** through the lobby. Yes, I mean roared. She likes to ride her motorcycle indoors!

“Wow, big brother, I just heard the news. When did you turn into such a **SPORTSMOUSE?**” she chattered, grinning.

I shook my head. I definitely wasn't a **SPORTSMOUSE**. I could barely chew a



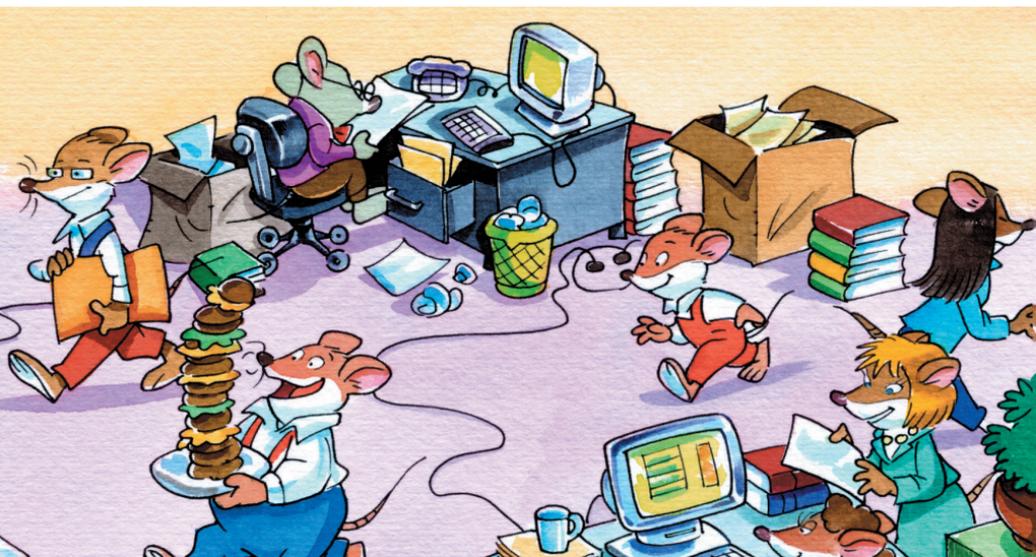


cheese stick and walk at the same time.

Just then, my cousin Trap strolled in. “Hey, Germeister. How’s the training going? Who would have thought a wimpy rodent like you would become such a **SPORTSMOUSE**?” he snickered.

A minute later, my nephew Benjamin appeared. He tugged at my sleeve.

“Uncle Geronimo, what are you doing in the office? A **SPORTSMOUSE** like you should be out running in the park. After all, you’re in training,” he **squeaked**.





I twisted my tail up in a knot. Had my whole family gone **crazy**? The last time I went for a stroll in the park, I tripped over a pinecone and twisted my ankle. I was on crutches for three weeks!

“**Would someone please tell me what you are all squeaking about?**” I shouted, plopping down behind my desk.

Before they could answer, a rodent strode into my office. He wore bicycle shorts, sunglasses and a whistle. I would know that mouse anywhere. It was my friend **Champ Strongpaws**.



# CHAMP STRONGPAWS

**First Name:** Champ

**Last Name:** Strongpaws

**Background info:** An all-around star athlete. He's into the latest training trends. He works for a sports radio station, and loves to get lazy rodents up and running.

**Sports:** He does all kinds of endurance sports like cycling, running, and swimming. And he loves marathons!

**His advice:** Eat right, sleep right, and keep those paws pumping.

**What he believes in:** Exercise!

**His passion:** Exploring new countries and getting to experience other cultures.

**His slogan:** "Sports can make the world a better place!"

**His claim to fame:** He built a super-fast bicycle that can seat five mice.

**His dream:** To explore the ten most beautiful countries in the world in ten days, with ten different bicycles.

